St. James Theater .- San Francisco Minstrels. TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.—"Humpty Dumpty to the Borery." and Varieties.

UNION SQUARE THEATER,-"School for Scandal."

WALLACK'S THEATER. - "Brother Sam." E. A.

Business Notices.

NEAT HOLIDAY GOODS-GOLD PENS. To those engaged in mercantile pursuits, any invention that will fuell-tate their isher; is highly worthy of notice as well as of extensive parameter. One of the most important inventions of the presentage is that of a pice that proceeded the necessary qualities of firmness in mark and durability in use.

bility in use.

Pre-minerally such are those of John Folkey, manufacturer of fine
Roof Pens and Pencils, No. 2 Autor House. Their superior value is
tested by the long time he has been engaged in our city in their manufac-

Good Pens and Penecis. No. 2 Actor Rouse. But superior varieties by the long time he has been engaged in our city in their manufacture.

We, the subscribers, who know the value of Folky's PENS from constant use of them for a number of years, cheerfully recommend them to those who wish for the best and most perfect Gold Pen ever made.

Signed by the following gentlemen and over 1,000 others:

J. E. Williams, President Matternal for president Rank.

J. S. Wolliams, President Matternal Runk of North America.

Wm. A. Falls. President Corne Exchange National Bank.

J. A. Beardenley. Cashier National Runk of the Republic.

P. D. Tappan, President Saidhin Runk of the Republic.

P. D. Tappan, President Saidhin Runk of the Republic.

P. D. Tappan, Cashier National Bank of the Republic.

P. D. Tappan, Cashier Continental National Bank.

Lanc G. Ogden, Cashier Stew York County National Bank.

Ver. J. J. Markins, President Said of America.

Wm. E. Morker, Cashier Shee of America.

J. K. Southworth, President Atlantic National Bank.

J. M. Cashier Shee Reals of National Bank.

J. M. Cashier Shee and Leather National Bank.

Clarke, Daige & Co.

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Clarke, Daige & Co.

Willest, Cashier Bull & Bled Bank.

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H. T. Narymond & Co., New York Herlish & Hatch.

H. T. Narymond & Co., New York Herlish & Hatch.

T. Keteban & Co.

Charle, Doige & Co. Houses & Mary. White, Morris & Co. Vermitie & Co. Winslow, Lanier & Co. Geo. D. Arthur & Co. Pick & Hotch. H. T. Morgan & Co. ald.
T. Ketebara & Co.
S. H. Chittenden & Co.
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antie Mutual Its. Co.
nercial Mutual Its. Co.
orilla Mutual Its. Co.

pal stationers and iewelers.

John Folky, Gold Pen Manufacturer,
No. 2 Astor House, opposite the Herald Office. THE RAILROAD DISASTER AT CORRY, PENN. TWENTY FOUR KILLED, THIRTY-FIVE WOUNDED.

Some of the victims were insured to the TRAVELERS INSURANCE Co. of Hartford, most of them were not. In these wintry times, when casual-ties of all kinds are of such frequent occurrence, every man should have a general accident insurance policy in the THAVELERS. Apply to any Agent, or send to Home Office, at Hartford, Conn.

BOARDING.—The best place in New-York City to find elegant Rooms and good Board at reasonable prices is at 30 West Tayouty-style-ti. Elegant parlors and bedrooms for families and fine single rooms for these or gentlemen. A variety of baths, Butler's Health Lift, and evening sociables for guests. THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1873 (ready early in January) will, in addition to its usual contents, have Portmart and Biographs of Morace Greener.

THE SIDE-WHEEL STEAMER CAMERIDGE leaves or No. 77, N. E. New-York, a: 4 o'clock p. m., for Providence, Mox-ter, Wed-Nerdays, and Fridays.

Parquet Floors, equal to imported, a spe-Dr. B. FRANK PALMER-Patent ARMS and Luos, 1,800 Chestautest, Philadelphia, 37 Green at., Roston.

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DARLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum. REMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$3 per an. WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$2 per annum. A dvertising Rates.

DAILY TRIBUNE, 30c., 40c., 50c., 75c., and \$1 per line. SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, 25 and \$5 cents per line. WEEKLY TRIBUNE, \$2, \$3, and \$5 per line According to position in the paper. Terms, cash in advance.
Address. THE TRIBUNE. New-York.

Advertisements for this week's issue of THE WEEK'S TENDENE must be handed in To-Day. Price \$2 per line.

New-Dork Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1873.

The Committee of Thirty of the French Assembly has been engaged in fruitless discussions. - An election quarrel has taken place at Tampico. ---- Insurgent accesses are reported from Cuba. ==== The ex-King of Hanover has been selected to succeed to the throne of

Fears are entertained at Memphis of further destruction from another we gorge. - Gov. Warmoth, it is now reported, has not abandoned the contest with the Pinchback party. - Riebard Baker was brutally murdered near Louisville. - The twentieth victim of the Prospect railroad disaster has died.

One body has been recovered from the Centro = Prot. Tyndall lectured on "Light," and Geo. Mac-Donald preached in Newark, N. J. - Gold, 112, 112; 112. Thermometer, 170, 230, 130, 200, 250, 200.

By some preposterous blunder the loss in the Mississippi ice gorge was placed last Saturday at the ridiculous figure of \$20,000,000. It was first reported at \$200,000; but it now promises to amount to twice that sum.

Happily the Stokes trial is near its termination. The evidence on Saturday was not new, except as to the alleged threats of Fisk, and the employment by Stokes of a man named Brady to accompany him about town for his pretection.

Mr. George MacDonald is so much better known in this country as a novelist and poet than as a preacher, that we are sure the full report of a sermon delivered by him at Newark yesterday, and printed in THE TRIBUNE this morning, will attract many readers.

The last three disastrous fires in this city originated as did that at Boston, and as 99 per cent of all fires begin, from the furnaces in the buildings. Possibly after a long time these repeated conflagrations will suggest to some innovating architect the notion of erecting blocks of houses heated from a single furnace built in a broad court-yard remote from any combustible matter.

Some troubles are likely to arise from the selection of the ex-King of Hanover or his son to succeed to the throne of the Duchy of Brunswick on the death of Duke William, when the present ruling House will be extinct. The Emperor of Germany will hardly permit the peaceful accession of his enemy to power which would chiefly be employed in undermining his own authority in Germany.

The Post-Office Department bas a fashion of making its own laws. The Postmaster-General's order that a deficiency of stamps on a letter subjects it to what is equivalent to a fine is found to be illegal; that such a rule should ever have been made is amazing. The other day the same Department was gravely discussing whether it was legal for a Postmaster to break open a letter if he suspected there might be something wrong inside! According to the Post-Office Department one would suppose the world is not governed half enough.

Ex-Senator Harry C. Genet announced on Saturday, in giving his evidence before the Harlem Court House Commission, that it was a common thing for members of the late Ring to sign each other's names to documents and drafts whenever convenient. If this practice was as general as represented, the District Attorney evidently has a good deal of work ahead of him. Most folks are accustomed to look upon such "commercial transactions" as Mr. Genet alludes to as very nearly identical with "forgery" as laid down in the statutes.

Step by step Prof. Tyndall has led bis andiences, until those who gathered to hear him

planations that have ever rendered the pages of his reputation. We have also to thank Prof. Tyndall for a conscientious determination to meet punctually his engagements as a weather nor personal illness to interfere.

With the opening of another session of the Legislature, we may expect a number of new schemes for reorganizing our City Government. The Committee of Seventy and the Republican General Committee will undoubtedly each have one; and something like a rivalry between these is almost inevitable. While these plans are yet incheate, it is too the Syndicate to take \$10,000,000 of the new early to offer anything more than general sug- loan at 98; at once, and \$5,000,000 monthly gestions; but it is safe to say that it is also until the 1st of April, or \$45,000,000 in all. too early to relinquish all hope of popular gov rnment. The people certainly have not Mr. Boutwell a "put," which is simply the made up their minds that the plan of ruling reverse of a "call," for \$35,000,000 of the new New-York by Commissions is economical, just, loan at 981. If the operation turned out profit- of their comrades; the dispatch would not wise, or acceptable.

One of the unexpected consequences of enlarging the membership of the House of Representatives is discovered to be the necessity of a corresponding increase of naval and military cadetships. As these appointments are apportioned among the members in a fixed ratio, their increase will require a reorganization of the Naval and Military Academy. To prevent an overstocking of the army and navy with graduates, the best remedy proposed is evidently that which will prolong the term of study and yet keep the annual graduations unchanged in number. We have midshipmen and lieutenants enough; and, since the standard of admission must be kept down to suit the low condition of prevailing systems of education, why not make the graduates more thorough by extending their term of study?

The prosecution of the Ring has come to an impotent conclusion indeed, when, after all, Tweed and Mayor Hall are the only persons indicted. There were indicted originally Peter B. Sweeny and his brother, Woodward, Ingersoll, Connolly, Tweed, Hall, Cook, Genet, Garvey, Hugh Smith, and others whose names and particular deeds are already forgotten. There were several indictments against each of the principals, so that really some twenty-odd indictments were found last year - and quashed. Later charges against Tweed are to be tried next week; Hall has been twice arraigned, and probably will not be again; and Ingersoll is to be tried on an indictment which private energy brought against him. Even Peter B. Sweeny and Connolly are no longer under indictment; Woodward himself can return with impunity to the scene of his profitable operations as a go-between of greater rogues; a Legislative Committee is still inquiring whether or not Genet is guilty. Practically, Tweed is the only accused member of the old Ring still in the field for trial, and Reform will have to take its satisfaction out of him. Thus far his old comrades have left him to bear the brunt and expense of the battle; and his enemies appear now to think the people will be satisfied with his punishment.

Now that business interests affected by the

Louisiana anarchy are beginning to make themselves felt, it is to be hoped that some- pices of Assistant Secretary Richardson. thing will be done to bring order out of chaos. The Louisiana Committee, at present in this city, are men of good commercial standing and substance; they represent no political party, but only the party of law, order, and peace. They say they would be best pleased if the whole vexed question of filling the State offices were remanded to the people for settlement at a new election under rules and regulations which should be just beyond any cavil How is this to be done? The most natural impulse is to look to Congress; that body has taken upon itself to legislate specially for the South: it was its dangerous Enforcement Law which made the Louisiana usurpation possible; and it is to Congress that the Committee propose to go with their grievances. Meanwhile, business languishes; important enterprises are suspended, and all the currents of trade are stagnant. This is the inevitable result of the unsettled state of things which prevails in Louisiana. Congress is chiefly to blame for this, because Congress gave Judge Durell the powers of a dictator; and Congress dallied weakly with the political affairs of the State when its investigation might have ended in something which would have been conclusive of the whole matter.

" PUTS AND CALLS."

We propose, certainly in no captions spirit, to throw a little light on some obscure points connected with the negotiation of the last \$135,000,000 of the new five per cent loan. A further issue of \$300,000,000 of bonds is recommended by Secretary Boutwell on similar terms, and it seems to us, on a careful reperusal of the Secretary's explanations to the Ways and Means Committee, and of the questions put to him by members of that Committee, that there is still considerable misunderstanding on important details. Mr. Kerr asked Mr. Boutwell a question, to which no satisfactory answer was made, which appears to us to go to the root of the matter. That question was, "When did Jay Cooke & Co. pay "the Treasury for these new bonds?" Theoretically, on the 1st of September, 1871; actually, not until December of that year. Under what authority, then, did Secretary Boutwell make the Syndicate the owners of the bonds on the 1st of September, three months before they paid for them? In his monthly statements of the public debt for September, October, and November, 1871, these bonds are not included. Consequently the interest on them was not part of the interest of the public debt. If this three months' interest, amounting to \$1,690,000, was not part of the interest of the public debt it was a commission to the Syndicate, over and above the one-half per cent to which Mr. Boutwell was limited by the law. If it was part of the interest on the public debt, then the debt statements of September, October, and November were untrue; and the debt had been increased \$135,000,000. In either case the law was violated. There is no escaping one or the other of these conclusions. Nor is it a sufficient answer to say that in no other way could the loan have been effected. The law should have been respected, though the country had paid an extra one per cent on its debt for ten years to come. To make use of the pretext that Mr. Boutwell \$30,000,000" at its credit in London. This does, that the Treasury has lost nothing by

purpose.

on Saturday evening found no difficulty in -when he accepted the proposition of Jay was no more than proper, Mr. Richardson being comprehending his description of the invisible Cooke & Co., was to give the Syndicate at the time in their service. rays of the solar spectrum. In this field the a "call" on the United States Governlecturer is more particularly at home. The ment for \$135,000,000 of five per cent bonds relations of radiant heat to light long ago at 981, plus a small fraction, incidental elicited from him some of the most lucid ex- expenses connected with the printing and delivery of the bonds, A "call," we of science popular. This lecture was worthy may explain, is the privilege of receiving may well fill the Spanish authorities with diswithin a specified time a specified stock or may. Within the last fortnight the Cubans security at a specified price. If that price is have made two brilliant dashes into the above the market value, and remains above enemy's country, and have attacked with lecturer, with which he allows neither stormy it, the purchaser, of course, never avails him- success fortified places. The accounts which self of his privilege. If the figures named in the contract should come to be below the as possible by Spanish officials, but there market price during the interval over which the contract extends, it is to the interest of They cannot be explained away by stating the purchaser to take the stock from the seller of the call and dispose of it in the market. The consideration accepted by Messrs. Boutwell and Richardson in return for this privilege was an agreement on the part of or useless raid. Every detail given by the That is to say, the Syndicate in return gave able, as it did, the Syndicate were at liberty to avail themselves of the whole \$135,000,000. If anything should happen to make it unprofitable they were free to stop with the \$45,000,000.

> We now proceed to show how the Syndicate could and in all probability did protect themselves from loss on their side on account of the "put." For this a comparison of dates and prices of United States bonds is necessary, and we regret that Secretary Boutwell did not see fit to communicate to Congress the exact date when the final negotiations were consummated. The United States 10-40 five per cent bonds were a security which the experienced bankers who composed the Syndicate rightly judged to be less desirable and has the Spanish Government publicly anconsequently less valuable than would be the fives of the new loan. The price of the 10-40s might therefore be taken as a little less than the price at which the new fives could be disposed of. During the whole month of July the net price of 10-40s ranged in London at but a fraction above two per cent less than that of the 5-20 six per cents, which were receivable by the United States Government at par in settlement of the contract with the Syndicate. The Syndicate had only to buy such 5-20 six per cent bonds as they needed to protect themselves, while they had the unerring guide of the market price to inform them of the amount which could be realized on the new bonds which they were to receive in exchange. Assistant Secretary Richardson was in Loudon during the whole month of July, in treaty with the Syndicate. During that month 5-20s advanced from 981 to 101. We do not absolutely know that the Syndicate were buying, but we suspect that they were. On the 9th of August the public were informed of the "complete success of the new loan." On the 19th of August, 1871, the loan was advertised in The London Times, the bonds to be delivered and paid for on the 1st of December, and before the end of the month the whole amount was subscribed for at par; such was the announcement at the time, and there is no question as to the price received, but Mr. Cooke now says that about \$5,000,000 remained untaken. We suspect that no small portion of the profits of the Syndicate accrued to them in the months of July and August, 1971, by operations in the bond market under the aus-

In his hearing before the Committee of Ways and Means, Secretary Boutwell made it tolerably plain that no money was paid into the United States Treasury, or any old bonds given in exchange for new, until the 1st of December, after the three months' interest on the five-twenties, ostensibly exchanged for the new bonds on the 1st of September, had accrued for the benefit of the Syndicate. Yet on the 9th of August, Jay Cooke & Co. caused to be published in the daily papers that "not "less than \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 will be placed " to the credit of the Treasury on or before the "25th inst." This, of course, was a sham. It meant only that they were prepared to make good their agreement, or "put," with Mr. Boatwell for \$35,000,000 of the new loan, less the legal one-half per cent commission and the illegal bonus of three months' interest. The question also arises, where were the new bonds during the interval from the 1st of September to the time the Syndicate completed their payments? Mr. Boutwell gives us to understand in a general way that they were in his possession as security for deposits of public money placed in the national banks, the said money being the same which was received in payment for the new loan. This was a legal fiction, made necessary to excuse the payment of double interest. In reality no money was received in payment, and the bonds, within the meaning of the statute, were still the property of the Government. If Mr. Boutwell had power to sell them on three months' credit, he might have sold them on twelve months' credit, and thus a bond for which he was forbidden to accept less than par might have been sold for 95. But he finally tells us that Mr. Richardson had the bonds in iron safes in London for the convenience of the Syndicate. Precisely what Mr. Richardson did with them is not certain, but Mr. Boutwell says his instructions not to deliver without receiving cash in hand or other bonds in exchange were invariably followed, "so far as I know." We are far from suspecting any knavery, but it seems to us there was a grand chance for a

stupendous defalcation. We shall briefly notice only one other point -that of the rates of exchange. For a reply to the very proper question of Mr. Maynard, "What was the difference in value of the pound sterling, or English sovereign coin, in 'London and New-York ?" at the time of the negotiation, Mr. Boutwell was forced to call upon Mr. Cooke, and the latter gentleman replied that "there was not a frac-"tional difference;" "91 represented the par "value precisely." The real fact, we presume, which Mr. Maynard wanted to get at was whether a pound sterling at London was worth more to the United States Treasury than a pound sterling in New-York. At that time pounds sterling or ounces of gold were worth more to the Treasury in London than in New-York. Merchants in this country having at that time more payments to make in England than English merchants here, our merchants would have paid a small premium, say one-half to three-quarters of one per cent, for the bills of exchange which the Treasury could have sold against the "\$20,000,000 to the operation, is neither worthy nor to the the Syndicate. The expense of the iron safes and of Mr. Richardson's traveling expenses "in August," 1871-the exact date is important by the Syndicate, being deducted from the

MATTERS IN CUBA.

indicate that the insurrection has begun to

Our dispatches from Havana this morning

exhibit a renewal of vigorous vitality which we receive are of course colored as much is no mistaking the significance of these events. that Mayori and Holguin, the places entered by the insurgents, were for the moment in a defenseless condition. It will not be believed that Vicente Garcia was at the head of any foolhardy Spaniards goes to show that the insurgents matter, and that the Spaniards were surprised and severely handled. Of course, the insur- relief in losing them. gents "retreated," and the Spaniards intend to pursue them vigorously and avenge the death be complete without those familiar words. the Fort of Holguin, turned its guns upon the day, inflicting heavy losses, among them a Spanish Lieutenant-Colonel, a Major, and presume, that he intends to crush the insurrection thoroughly this time in the Eastern Department. There has never much crushing without injury. Three times has ordered Te Deums to be sung in the churches to commemorate the definitive triumph of Spain. It is entirely safe to assume that they will have the same thing to do as they would do well to make some such an-

nouncement promptly. They do not seem to be much more successthe insurgents. The Intendente at Havana has the Custom-House, and has prepared a report, which will probably remain in a state of preparation, making disclosures which could not but shock the Castilian mind, if they were printed. He is soon to go back to Spain, having 'partially" accomplished the reforms which he attempted. From another dispatch it appears that Gen. Ceballos is awaiting the arrival of the post he has held with such dignity and credit for many years, of Perpetual Candidate. There is plenty of work cut out for the next Captain-General, whoever he may be.

MOVEMENT OF IMMIGRATION. We publish in another place an interesting the movement of immigration to this country. They are obtained from the forthcoming cenaus returns, and throw a great deal of light upon the subject of the origin and the distribution of the vast army of immigrants which is continually landing upon our shores. It appears that although the native population still maintains its majority, it is rapidly losing its relative superiority to the number of forour thirty-eight and a half millions, five and one-half are foreign born, while almost twice that number are the children of foreign parents. The rapid increase of the population from alien sources, and the diminished rate of production among the original stock, are facts well worthy of the attention of philosophical

and reflecting persons. Of course the two most considerable elements in this mass of new blood are the Irish, who numbered in June, 1870, 1,855,827, and the Germans, who were counted at 1,690,410. They are shown thus to be rather more equal in numerical strength than would generally have been supposed, and the last two years, as we shall presently see, have brought them still nearer together. But there is a great difference between them in their choice of homes and way of living. The vast preponderance of Irish is in the East, chiefly in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New-York City and its vicinity. With few exceptions they seek the neighborhood of large cities. The Germans, on the contrary, are much more generally distributed. They are of course very numerous in New-York and Philadelphia, but not in New-England, and are scattered throughout the entire West. They are found in great masses in the western part of this State, on the shores of the Ohio and Mississippi, and on the west coast of Lake Michigan. There are also considerable settlements of them in Texas, which form exceptions to the national distaste for the South. The Scandinavians in bulk co to the North-West. It is the best commentary on the disturbed condition of things in the South that even yet the tide of no part of this valuable immigration has set in toward the South. Every requisite to the comfort and welfare of the new settler except one is found in abundance in the South; a good climate, a fertile soil, a sparse population, unlimited opportunities open to industry and enterprise; but until tranquillity and good government are assured in that region its great natural advantages will go for nothing.

The forthcoming report of our own Commissioners of Emigration will show a remarkable increase of the number of immigrants within the present year. While during the year 1871 there landed at New-York 229,639 immigrants, the number for this year reaches 291,217. The great increase is from Germany. One might naturally think that after a great war in which one nation was largely aggrandized and another totally crushed, emigration would be rather the resort of the vanquished than the victors. But we see p cisely the contrary. Over 111,000 of this vast mass of new citizens have come from Germany, and only 2,700 from France. The marvelous local patriotism of the Gallie race was never more clearly exhibited. The German banner has driven whole villages of them out of Alsace into France, but nothing seems capable of driving them out of France. The large emigration from Germany is not difficult to understand. The rigid system of conscription by which the best years of life are sacprofit seems also to have been conceded to rificed to military drill, the increased taxation which even the milliards of France are not enough to prevent, the higher price of living What Secretary Boutwell really did "early and extra luggage appears to have been borne which always follows war, are causes sufficient to explain the general exodus which has ex-

sian Cabinet, that measures are now concerting to check it by government interference. But it is most singular that the current of travel which affects the whole world should erty, to rescue the burned bodies. And we have no influence, to speak of, in French territory. We have mentioned the small number | calculating tenants who supped to consider of French immigrants-2,700. It will appear the effect upon their insurance of any still less when we see that beside the 64,000 generous efforts of theirs to recover the Irish, there are 11,000 Swedes, 9,000 Scotch, 6,400 Norwegians, 5,800 Italians, 4,600 Danes, 4,500 Swiss, 3,400 Dutch, and even 4,000 Rus-

The usual distribution appears to have taken place. Most of the Germans have gone West. thought or experience to prompt it. It was Most of the Irish have remained in the East. humanity, not wisdom, which should have Outside of New-York, Illinois appears to have gained the largest detachment of the immi- This unfeeling delay and neglect have grating army, no less than 34,000 having gone to that State. Pennsylvania has, as usual, secured a large contingent. We do not agree | the next time great calamity overtakes us with some of our cotemporaries in deploring this peaceful invasion. We hope and trust action, there will be no five days' consultation acted with a perfect understanding of the that we shall be the better for gaining them, and that their own countries may find some

HANDS OFF. Perhaps any period is a poor time in which to propose the annexation of new territory to smiles like Santa Claus himself on the young-But the facts remain that Garcia captured | the United States. Certainly the present is. | sters, bath a scowl on the other side of its With two or three States in a condition ap-Spaniards, held it against them until the next proaching anarchy, to talk of "enlarging the the lapse of a royal line in the little Kingdom | bodies during the year, all the pleasant little several other officers, and finally, after doing of Hawaii is sure to be seized on as a luxuries to which we invited our souls, present a great amount of damage, retired without pretext for bringing under the American the sting which they invariably have left beloss. Gen. Riquelme has established flag the Sandwich Islands, to which not hind. The coat is old, the bouquets long ago his headquarters at Puerto Principe a few of our statesmen and politicians have dust which we left at our sweetheart's door for the campaign, which means, we heretofore east longing glances. We all know the staple arguments: a dying race, predominant American interests, a half-way port in our track to Asia, rich addition to our probeen an insurrection which would endure so ductive revenues; this is the sort of plea which the advocates of annexation are sure to make. Faint echoes of their opening nounced that the rebellion was at an end, and campaign already reach us from Washington. Now, we do not need any more national territory; we do need to improve and govern better what we have. As a nation we are amply "spread out" already; and our latest many times again. If Garcia remains at large, acquisition is yet governed by military law -if it is governed at all. The scheme for the annexation of Santo Domingo never met with popular favor, and ful with their own people than they are with is regarded to-day with indifference or active alarm. The Sandwich Islands, in the middle found a shocking state of things prevailing at of the Pacific, three weeks' sail from the American coast, overwhelmed with debt and peopled by an effeminate race of men, would be a bigger elephant on our hands than even

icy Alaska has proved. Just as THE TRIBUNE always predicted, the Alaska purchase is now quoted as a good precedent to justify further annexations. We bought the Aleutian Islands with Alaska, say Gen. Cordova. But the last dispatches from | these champions of Manifest Destiny; why Madrid indicate Pieltain as Captain-General of | not therefore bag the Sandwich Islands? We Cuba. Gen. Cordova will probably not quit might, on these grounds, go into the market control which enables them to stint every day as a bidder for the Hebrides or the Indian in the year in order to lift the burden from

Archipelago.

-We have difficulties enough already in our way in working out the great problem of selfgovernment. Free institutions cannot endure without intelligence and religion. Have we such a surplus of these in the last four or entertaining as they are valuable in regard to | that we must needs be hunting for new semitropical and semi-barbarous peoples to be added to our voting population? We are sufficiently exposed already, in Must we needs case of foreign wat. be hunting for more exposed points on which to plant our flag, so that, without a navy to defend it, it could be humiliated at pleasure by the first aggressor? We have a territory now vaster than any government in eigners and children of foreigners. Out of History has been able permanently to hold together. Must we travel two thousand miles into the ocean for more?

> THE CHAMBERLAIN AND THE CONTROLLER. We have received from the City Chamber-

lain the following note: OFFICE OF THE CITY CHAMBERLAIN, Dec. 28, 1872.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: Your comment in this morning's paper does me niustice. If you will please read Controller A. H. Green's letter, dated Dec. 16, 1871, and the laws regulating the duties and responsibilities of the Chamberlain, you will perceive that I have been prevented from collecting any interest from the deposit banks upon city and county money. I invite the closest scrutiny into the transactions of this office.

FRANCIS A. PALMER, Chamberlain. The letter of Mr. Green, to which the Chamberlain here refers, is a letter to the depository banks, instructing them to add the interest on city and county deposits to the principal, instead of paying it to the order of the Chamberlain, and to account for it monthly to the Controller's office, thus ignoring the Chamberlain altogether. In at least one case this order of the Controller seems to have been complied with. But Mr. Palmer declares that it is impracticable and unwarranted, and he therefore falls back upon the letter of the law, which merely requires the banks to pay his office rent and clerk hire, and says nothing at all about interest. The banks, of which Mr. Palmer is President and Manager of one and his nephew, the Deputy Controller, President and Manager of another, have consequently ceased to pay interest,which is a very good thing for them, however unfortunate it may be for the city.

Perhaps we shall have to go to the Legislature for a stricter definition of the powers of the Controller and Chamberlain respectively, and for an act regulating the collection and disposal of interest on the city and county funds. The use of these large sums of money must not be given to banks or individuals without compensation.

RED-TAPE RESCUERS.

We have not before commented on the extraordinary display of red-tape in the matter of searching for the bodies of the victims of the Centre-st. fire, for evident reasons. We hoped that there was some explanation and excuse for an official apathy which is discreditable to all who are in any way responsible. And we have been unwilling to do any injustice by hasty judgments. But no excuse is offered from any source, and it was not until yesterday, five days after the fire, that search was begun for the bodies, and Ithen only one was recovered.

Under all these circumstances, we think we are neither unfair nor harsh in saying that it is a fortunate circumstance that we are soon to have a successor to the Coroner who hesi tated to order this work done until he could ask the Controller through the regular channel of communication who was to bear the expense. The Police officials who lacked the prompt decision to impress not only their force, but all the idle bystanders into the work of rescue, even though they knew the sufferers were beyond aid and past suffering, are hardly of the stamp of men the city can safely trust in a great and trying emergency. We should dislike very much to have for a but has not been communicated to the public legitimate one-half per cent commission. This cited such well-grounded concern in the Prus- landlord the Scrooge of an owner who coldly creatures.

calculated that interest would compel his lessees to clear away the rubbish at their own expense, and, in regaining their buried propshould as heartily distrust the too careful and charged remains of their unfortunate employés. All are alike discredited by their indecision and their cold indifference to the commonest dictates of human nature. What should have been done in this instance needed no foreat once urged and guided all hands. disagreeably impressed the public mind. We hope the officials will take warning, and that suddenly, and common humanity demands our as to what Department of the City Government shall bear the expense of rescuing the sacred dead of a public disaster.

THIS WEEK.

The season is Janus-faced, and while it mouth for the rest of us, for the melancholy time is come of paying bills. In this week all "area of freedom" seems a fine sarcasm. But the necessaries wherewith we comforted our morning after morning; even the wine with which we consoled our bachelorhood on Christmas Day has been drunk and forgotten; but now come the avenging ghosts of them: a fluttering host of yellow envelopes with thinnest and most suggestive of inclosures, which meet us at breakfast and pursue us all day. What were the Eumenides to these Furies? Orestes, apparently, had good looks and ready wit enough to wheedle them and Minerva too out of his sentence; but what could good looks avail him against an' angry tailor's bill?

It is a time with flattened pocket-books before us, for solemn thought, for remorse, for weighty good intentions. The most pious father of a family finds himself as full of good resolutions on New-Year's as pagan hell itself is reported to be. Not one of us, perhaps, from the housekeeper with her market-book in hand to the would-be Sardanapalus of a Bowery cierk, who does not at least on this one week of the year count up our resources and honestly, determine to retrench. In all probability the resolves will amount to just nothing. Money will be scarcer next year, while nothing is so hard to break as a habit of spending it, by a family or a single member of it. Very few women and fewer men have that kind of self-

pers may help us to this wholesome self-

the invisible last one. A statement made lately in the English pa-

control if we consider it rightly. A return has been made to Parliament of the rentals of all houses in the kingdom, from which is deduced letter from Washington, giving some facts as five millions of addition to our citizenship the startling fact that "in a land of million-"aires and princes the number of really com-"fortable people is less than 11 per cent of the "population." By the "comfortable" is meant a family owning or renting a house at \$500 per year, or over; "a householder," says the Spectator, "who is out of the class of the anxious, intends to give his children a fair "education, and can contemplate a holiday "without any sickening feeling of despair. It "implies, in London, a house costing \$875, "and an income of not less than \$4,000; and "in the country a rental of \$750 and an income of \$3,000. While, therefore," it continues, "every year sees a new milhonaire en-"ter society, it is an undoubted fact that only "60,000 families in Great Britain are comfortable. One in eight only of the population 'need not regard a sovereign as a very serious sum, and only to four in a thousand is a fivepound note not a most important amount of money." Here is matter for reflection for us. While the ratio of expenditure here in the cities is so much heavier that no man with an income of only \$4,000 could command in New-York a house of the grade accessible to him in London, the income of every man willing to work is at least double that which the same amount of skill, knowledge, and industry would conquer for him in Great Britain. The mechanic, who in England would regard the taking in" of a daily paper as an unpardonable extravagance, here can afford a mode of life not only comfortable but, to the English view, luxurious. The farm-hand here, with his cosy house, patch of ground, and plentiful provender, the year round, of bacon, chickens and pie, in Dorsetshire would chew his black bread unmoistened save by lard, on Sundays, with a chance of meat once in the year.

The moral of which is, in brief, that money comes in so easily in this country that if common sense rules a man's outlay there is no reason why any family above the rank of absolute paupers should be in debt on this last week of the year. To effect this result next year, the first consideration should be to pitch our tent where our income will go furthest. The salary or wages which in New-York will rent a room in a tenemen house, will command in an inland town a large dwelling and corresponding comforts; salary and wages being just as sure there, and no risk, among the friendlier village folk, of starvation. The second consideration is, that money which comes easily is apt to go in the same slippery fashion. Fashionables in Fifthave. or Denver, with their conventionalism, their incessant aping, filch daily from the purse that odd dollar which leaves the woful deficit at the end of the year. Let us bid Fashion good-bye, then, and leave the eyes of our neighbor out of our calculation in the next twelvemonth's expenses, and we shall face our creditors with light hearts and full pockets when the New Year of '74 dawns.

The strike of the gas-stokers in London has set people to wondering how they should get light if the gas should give out altogether; and this has brought out the fact that there are at the public wharves of London about 30,000 barrels of petroleum, and that about 20,000 more barrels are on their way to the United Kingdom. The sense of safety against Egyptian darkness which these figures afford is mitigated by thoughts of what would happen to London should all this petroleum take fire. The Pall Mall Gazette points out that "a total illumination of the city would be perhaps even a worse calamity than a total darkness."

All over the city the neglected sparrows which inhabit our parks are dying for want of the food lost in the eighteen inches of snow that still mauties the city. We trust no humane man will fail to scatter before his door a few crumbs for these poor birds. Many persons who have already perceived their wants have been rewarded for their thoughtful charity by visits of whole flocks of the grateful